The Herald-Palladium 05/18/2014

Page B01



Misty Bannow of Dowagiac paints a car at a body shop. The high school senior gained a state award for advancing in a career area dominated by men - auto repair and body work.

Breaking traditions and pounding out dents

Dowagiac girl gets state award for automotive career

By DEBRA HAIGHT HP Correspondent

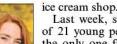
DOWAGIAC — Dowa- ademic classgiac Union High School es senior Misty Bannow likes spending the the idea of being a trail- afternoon eiblazer, pursuing a career in ther at the a male-dominated trade.

But mainly she just likes C o u n t y working on cars.

auto mechanics class first Dowagiac. If that wasn't tional career and technical thing each morning at the enough, she works at an education programs.

then takes a couple of acbefore Van Buren

Technical



Last week, she was one she said when asked if she of 21 young people - and thinks of herself as a piothe only one from South- neer or trailblazer. "I'm west Michigan – to win a happy to get the award. It Breaking Traditions award helps me get to the point from the Michigan De- where I can show people partment of Education. that it's not just a man's The awards went to college job. ... It was a surprise to and high school students, get the award. I really mostly girls. who have wasn't expecting it. I just Misty has a two-hour Center or a body shop in found success in nontradi- do what I love.

"I really don't know,"

See AUTOMOTIVE, page B2

Powered by TECNAVIA

Copyright (c) 2014 The Herald-Palladium 05/18/2014

5/19/2014 9:27 AM

The Herald-Palladium 05/18/2014

Page B02

AUTOMOTIVE

From page B1

and women can't do it, that it's a dirty job and that to me to fix their cars," she with dust and chemicals, but then they kind of but girls are more detailed adapted to me being here. oriented and that's impor- Now they come to me if tant with auto body work. they have questions." ... It's also artistic. I like airbrush paint work is art- County Fair, doing barrel work."

She's been taking auto lessons. mechanic classes at the golf cart and bikes.

had been totaled.

She got the chance earli- suspension. er this year to perform co-

Her interest in cars start- takes me," she said. ed early when she was restores motorcycles.

"He does land speed racrace and have raced with stone." him."

She said it surprised her family when she decided to take auto shop classes because she had always been "A lot of men think girls more interested in horses.

"Now my family comes women can't use the tools. said. "In class, at first the Auto body work is dirty boys said I didn't belong

She is a veteran at showthe artistic side and doing ing horses at the Cass racing and giving riding

Her plans include taking high school all four years classes at Southwestern and auto body classes at Michigan College, starting Van Buren for two years. in the fall and continuing She's airbrushed a custom to work at Bonomo's. She's already nationally certified Last year she helped re- in painting and refinishing store a Tiburon GT that and wants to get certification in brakes, engines and

"I like both (mechanical op work at Bonomo's Col- and body), and I'm going lision Center in Dowagiac. to do both and see where it

Her eventual goal is to watching her dad race cars move to Arizona, where and motorcycles in the salt her father lives, and get beds of Arizona. He also into the "high performance" side of things.

"I want to learn how ing, and I've always loved things work so I can make cars and trucks," she said. them go faster," she said. "I grew up watching him "For me, this is a stepping

Powered by TECNAVIA

Copyright (c) 2014 The Herald-Palladium 05/18/2014

5/19/2014 9:28 AM 1 of 1